



Paul Baxter
Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission
GPO Box 296
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

Dear Mr Baxter

On behalf of the group of Barrier Attendants employed by the Canberra Racing Club I wish to provide a submission on the "Investigation into the ACT Racing Industry" Issues Paper released on 2 November 2010.

The position of a Barrier Attendant within the thoroughbred racing industry is a highly specialised role that involves ensuring all horses are loaded into the barriers and in so doing protecting the safety of not only ourselves but also the safety of the horse and jockey. At present a group of 15 Barrier Attendants work at Canberra Racing Club meetings held at Thoroughbred Park, under a Collective Bargaining Agreement. Many of these individuals also work at regional race meetings at venues such as Queanbeyan and Goulburn.

The prosperity of the Canberra racing industry is vital in ensuring our team of employees is able to derive an income and contribute to the ACT economy. The strength of the Canberra training group ensures that regional venues are able to operate as should horse numbers within Canberra reduce, similarly starter numbers at all meetings that we work at in the region would similarly reduce. This has a flow on effect of reducing the number of attendants required, thereby limiting our opportunities to gain employment.

A similar situation has already occurred with the Queanbeyan Racing Club reducing their number of meetings held from 19 to 13. Should your investigation recommend a reduction in the funding levels provided to the Canberra Racing Club I am fearful that they too will be forced to reduce the number of race meetings, thereby placing further pressure on mine and my colleagues ability to derive an income from the racing industry.

This situation could also place pressure on the pleasure horse industry in the ACT. This is due to the fact that many of the Barrier Attendants' also gain employment in roles such as Farriers' for both race horses and pleasure horses alike. Should the industry within the ACT contract as it has done in Queanbeyan it may force many of us to look at relocating to be able to continue to derive an income from our specialised role, thereby reducing the number of Farriers' within the ACT to tend to the high number of horses not associated with the racing industry.

In addition a number of the Barrier Attendants' have and support their families in the ACT and therefore should they be forced to relocate this will further reduce the level of activity within the ACT economy as well as the population itself.

I would like to urge you to continue to support the ACT racing industry in your investigation as the livelihood of my specialised group of employees depends upon the conclusions that you reach.

Yours sincerely

Robert Potter
Head of Barrier Attendants
Canberra Racing Club
17 November 2010